

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A base station apparatus forming a communication network that is identified by a unique network identifier, the base station apparatus comprising:

a table that stores states of use of a plurality of network identifiers;

a receiver that receives information about a state of use of a network identifier used by an existing base station apparatus;

an assigner that assigns a network identifier to said base station apparatus with reference to said information and updates the table in accordance with said information and said network identifier assigned to said base station apparatus; and

a transmitter that transmits information about the updated table, wherein

when said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form a same communication network, the assigner assigns the same network identifier as the network identifier

used by said existing base station apparatus to said base station apparatus with reference to said information stored in the table.

13. (Previously Presented) The base station apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form different communication networks, the assigner assigns a network identifier that is unused by said existing base station apparatus and different from the network identifier used by said existing base station apparatus to said base station apparatus.

14. (Previously Presented) The base station apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

a setter that sets an extending identifier and increases a number of bits for use for a network identifier, when there is no unused network identifier and said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form different communication networks,

wherein the assigner assigns the extending identifier and the increased number of bits as a network identifier to the communication network of said base station apparatus.

15. (Previously Presented) The base station apparatus of claim 12, wherein:

the receiver receives said information about the state of use of the network identifier that is reported from said existing base station apparatus and that is transmitted from a communication terminal apparatus on a regular basis.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The base station apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a scrambler that performs scrambling processing on network identifiers.

18. (Currently Amended) A network identifier assignment method in a base station apparatus forming a communication network that is identified by a unique network identifier, said method comprising:

receiving information about a state of use of a network identifier used by an existing base station apparatus;

assigning a network identifier to said base station apparatus with reference to said information;

updating a table that stores states of use of a plurality of network identifiers in accordance with said information and said network identifier assigned to said base station apparatus; and transmitting information about the updated table, wherein when said base station apparatus and said existing base station apparatus form a same communication network, the same network identifier as the network identifier used by said existing base station apparatus is assigned to said base station apparatus with reference to said information stored in the table.

19. (Previously Presented) The base station apparatus of claim 12, wherein the receiver receives information about a table that stores states of use of a plurality of network identifiers in said existing base station apparatus as said information about the state of use of the network identifier.